THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Government of India has been implementing a number of schemes for implementation during Tenth Five Year Plan Period to promote the production of handloom textiles in the country which includes:

1. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Prothsahan Yojana
2. Handloom Export Scheme
3. Marketing Promotion Programme
4. Design Development and Training Programme
5. Integrated Handloom Training Programme
6. Mill Gate Price Scheme
7. Workshed cum Housing Scheme
8. Weavers Welfare Scheme
9. Bunker Bima Yojana
10. Implementation of Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act'1985
11. Reimbursement of CENVAT on Hank Yarn
12. Special Rebate on Handloom products.

(c) The target for production of handloom textiles by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan is 8700.00 million sq. mtrs.

(d) The estimated production during the first year of Tenth Plan was 5980 million sq. mtrs against the target of 7725 million sq. mtrs.

Silk Export Promotion Council

1615. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any plan from the Silk Export Promotion Council to increase exports of silk;

(b) if so, details of such plans;

(c) whether it is a fact that a delegation of silk exporters had met the Government recently with their suggestions;

(d) which are the countries offering maximum competition to Indian silk exporters; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to encourage silk exports from India?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For undertaking export promotion activities ISEPC has submitted their Annual Action Plan for the financial year 2004-05. This include participation in trade fairs and buyer-seller meets in Paris, Spain, Greece, Brazil, Argentina, Australia, South Africa and Russia, conducting awareness seminar/workshop, publication/advertisement abroad, reverse trade visits and organization of Indian Silk Week, with a total estimated expenditure of Rs. 79.54 lakhs including Rs. 56.63 lakhs from the Market Development Assistance Scheme of the Ministry of Commerce.

(c) Yes, Sir. A delegation of silk exporters has met the Government recently with their suggestions.

(d) China, Hongkong, Korea RP, Vietnam, Brazil and Japan are the countries offering maximum competition to Indian Silk exporters.

(e) Government is taking the following action to increase exports.

(i) Import of raw silk has been liberalized by being brought under OGL, which has increased availability of good quality silk enabling the manufacturers to produce export quality goods.

(ii) A number of schemes like Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB), Duty Drawback, Duty Free Replenishment Certificate (DFRC) have been made available to exporters whereby the element of tax on the exported item is reimbursed to them.

(iii) Government has rationalized value addition/Input-outp*.it norms specified under the EXIM Policy extended to exporters.

(iv) The Government is providing assistance to the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai for undertaking various export promotion activities such as participation in international fairs, organizing generic promotion stalls in domestic fairs like Tex-Styles India, Publicity in foreign trade magazines, publication of magazine "Silk India" and colour forecast card for domestic silk manufacturers, dissemination of overseas trade information among exporters, etc.

(v) For Technological upgradation of the industry loan at 5% point less than applicable rate, under the Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme for the Textiles sector is available *inter alia* to the silk sector.

(vi) In the budget .2004-05 customs duty on import of silk processing machinery has been reduced by 5% thus facilitating availability of machinery at lower prices.

(vii) Central Silk Board provides subsidy to beneficiaries through State Governments under plan schemes. It also provides technology support and training to them for their skill upgradation. During the Tenth plan period enhanced plan provision over the Ninth plan period has been made *i.e.* Rs. 450/- crores for development of Research and Technology and implementation of Central and Centrally Sponsored programmes.

Standard of sports institutes

1616. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) which of our sports and games are upto the International Standard;

(b) whether our Sports Institutes are possessing equipment and accessories of international standards to support training inputs of these sports and games; and

(c) whether the individual players of proven international standard are allowed to import equipment/accessories required to sustain or improve their standard of skills relating to games without payment of custom duty and in a hassle-free system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There has been resurgence in Indian sports in the recent past. In following sports and games Indian; sportspersons/teams are performing well at Asian/ Commonwealth/Olympics and world level championships:—

1. Archery 2. Athletics 3. Badminton 4. Boxing 5. Billiards & Snookers 6. Chess 7. Cricket 8. Golf 9. Hockey 10. Judo 11. Rowing 12. Shooting